

Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and the international non-profit organization, World Learning, are pleased to announce a call for applications for the tenth year of the Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) program (English-U.S.). The English-U.S. program provides emerging and mid-career civic leaders from the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem (and around the Middle East and North Africa) with the opportunity to complete an intensive specialized academic training at the University of Virginia and gain relevant professional experience within a practicum host organization in the Washington, D.C. area. This fellowship will cover the cost of international and domestic travel, health insurance and housing and provide a moderate living stipend to cover meals and incidentals.

Quick Facts:

Program Objective

Advance governance and empower civil society leaders by providing academic learning and practicum experience, as well as support and reinforce alumni linkages with counterparts across the region.

Program Activities

- ✓ Five weeks academic learning
- ✓ Nine weeks practicum
- ✓ Alumni engagement

The program is open to applicants from the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem, between the ages of 25 and 35 with a minimum of a bachelor's degree and sufficient English language fluency to successfully function in an English language university and professional working environment. Applicants also should have at least five years of professional work experience and both the capacity and commitment to apply the experience gained through the Fellowship in developing and implementing a project that will benefit an organization, specific community and/or sector in their home country. The fellowships will run from the end of February through May 2017 in the United States. Fellows are expected to travel to the United States unaccompanied.

“The most rewarding part of LDF was meeting excited and interested young men and women from all over the Arab world who share with me the same interests and concerns, even though we have different personalities and origins.” - LDF program alumnus

To promote program sustainability and create a multiplier effect, participants will create and implement follow-on projects in their home communities. Actions plans for the follow-on projects will be developed and finalized throughout the course of the program.

Deadline for Application Submission is November 4, 2016

“The program has completely changed my life and changed the way I look at things.” - LDF program alumnus

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- a) Be between 25 and 35 years of age;
- b) Have at least a bachelor’s degree and the demonstrated ability to succeed in a demanding and intensive academic environment;
- c) Have strong English language fluency sufficient to function successfully in a high-level academic as well as professional environment.

Civic Engagement Topics may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Political and social stakeholders● Civil society rights and responsibilities● Community organizing● Community engagement and participation	Conflict Transformation Topics may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Individual and group conflict transformation● Human rights and the rights of marginalized groups● Social justice● Peace building, negotiation and reconciliation	
Communication Topics may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Advocacy● Public speaking● Networking● Effective public discourse● Media and Social Media● Campaigning● Research	Democracy and Governance Topics may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Comparative democracy and governing systems● Ideology● Pluralism and tolerance● Citizenship● Transitions● Transparency	Leadership Topics may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Individual and group leadership● Professional collaboration● Strategic planning● Management of a change process● Project management

PROGRAM THEMES & ILLUSTRATIVE TOPICS:

Sample Day Agenda at the Host University:

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| 7:30am | Breakfast at hotel |
| 8:45am | Meet with LDF group and University Staff on campus |
| 9-10:30am | Visit a local NGO and participate in a civic engagement workshop on grassroots |

mobilization and activating marginalized communities

11-12:30pm Meet one-on-one with NGO leaders

12:45-2pm Lunch at a downtown café

2-4:00pm Participate in research or volunteer activities with a local NGO

4:00pm Afternoon debrief, group discussion and reflection on the day

5:30pm Free night on own or with other Fellows (dinner, movie, cooking, sightseeing, etc.)

